The present application was filed on July 15, 2003 with claims 1-19. Claims 2, 5 and 7 were previously canceled, and claims 20-23 were added in a prior amendment. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 8-23 were pending prior to the present amendment. Claims 1, 18 and 19 are the pending independent claims.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 8-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Boggio et al., "NetworkDesigner - Artifex - OptSim: A Suite of Integrated Software Tools for Synthesis and Analysis of High Speed Networks," Optical Networks Magazine, Sept/Oct 2001, pages 27-41 (hereinafter "Boggio") in view of Sun et al., "Simulation Studies of Multiplexing and Demultiplexing Performance in ATM Switch Fabrics," Performance Engineering in Telecommunications Network Teletraffic Symposium, 14-16 Apr. 1993, pages 21/1 – 21/5 (hereinafter "Sun") and Ishida et al., "A 10-GHz 8-b Multiplexer/Demultiplexer Chip Set for the SONET STS-192 System," IEEE Journal of Solid-State Circuits, Vol. 26, No. 12, Dec. 1991, pages 1936-1943 (hereinafter "Ishida").

As a preliminary matter, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the courtesies extended by the Examiner during a telephone interview with Applicants' attorney David E. Shifren (Reg. No. 59,329) on February 1, 2010.

Although Applicants respectfully traverse the present rejections for at least the reasons discussed in the previous response, Applicants have nonetheless chosen to amend the claims without prejudice. In view of this traversal, Applicants respectfully submit that the present amendment is not being made for reasons relating to patentability over the cited references, but rather is intended solely to expedite allowance by clarifying the claimed subject matter.

More particularly, claim 1 has been amended so as to specify that the one or more configurable parameters of the base device comprise a cell payload size, a chip version, a clock speed, a switching capacity, and a configuration type. The configuration type is selected from a plurality of configuration types comprising a centralized configuration, a stackable configuration and a distributed configuration, and the interface permits user selection of any one of the plurality of configuration types.

Support for this amendment may be found in the specification at, for example, page 8, lines 8-27, with reference to FIGS. 3 and 4. This amendment encompasses certain subject matter recited in claims 20 and 21, which have accordingly been canceled and amended, respectively.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references fail to teach or suggest any arrangement in which one or more configurable parameters of the base device comprise a cell payload size, a chip version, a clock speed, a switching capacity, and a configuration type of the type recited in amended claim 1.

Independent claims 18 and 19 have amended to include limitations similar to those discussed above with reference to claim 1 and are therefore believed to be similarly patentable.
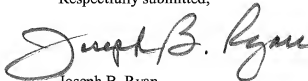
Applicants have also chosen to cancel claims 8-10 without prejudice and have added new claims 24-27.

New dependent claims 24 and 25 specify that one or more configurable parameters of the given integrated circuit comprise a number of ports on the corresponding device. Support may be found in the specification at, for example, page 7, lines 14-16 ("User-configurable parameters include . . . number of input ports on the PI40Xi devices, and number of output ports on the PI40Xe devices.") Dependent claims 26 and 27 include limitations similar to those of dependent claim 21.

The dependent claims are believed to be patentable at least by virtue of their dependence from independent claim 1. Furthermore, one or more of these claims is believed to define separately patentable subject matter. For example, Applicants respectfully submit that the limitations of claims 21-27 are not taught or suggested by the cited references.

In view of the foregoing, amended claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 11-19 and 21-27 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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